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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 09/438,392 Confirmation No. 9249
Applicant : Takashi AOYAMA
Filed : 12 November 1999
TC/A.U. : 1635
Examiner : Jane J. Zara

Docket No. : 2312-105
Customer No. : 6449

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action mailed 5 November 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification are reflected in the amended paragraphs which begin on page 2 of this paper. Material added has been indicated by underlining (underlining) and material deleted has been indicated by strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~).

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper. Material added has been indicated by underlining (underlining) and material deleted has been indicated by strikethrough (~~strikethrough~~).

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.